

3/19/98 Fall

A 24-year-old, married, father of three, and foreman of a farm crew, died due to head injuries sustained in a fall from a mechanical hay de-stacker.

The victim's crew was working the 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. shift when at 1:45 a.m. on the last load of the night, the de-stacker jammed at the top of the machine. The victim had the operator stop the machine while he cleared the jam. He shouted to the operator to re-start the machine, and was pinned by the swing arm of the de-stacker. As three members of his crew struggled to free him from the swing arm, he was thrown from the machine, and fell 11 feet to a concrete floor where he suffered fatal head injuries.

Questions to ask?

- Does your company have a plan to address the lock out of a machine while servicing so that unexpected energy or stored energy does not hurt someone when the machine is restarted?
- Has any thought been given to addressing the alertness of workers during late or rotating work shifts?